

## Sorolla: Spanish Master of Light

### Sensory Tour

#### Teachers' Notes

<b>Summary</b>	This specially-designed tour brings the work of Joaquín Sorolla to life, by introducing touch, sound and scent to create a multi-sensory, immersive experience. Students' learning is enhanced as they explore the beaches, gardens and people of Sorolla's Spain.
<b>Duration</b>	60 minutes
<b>Year groups suitable for</b>	Junior Infants – 6 <sup>th</sup> class
<b>Session itinerary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Sensory awareness warm up</li> <li>• The group will be guided to explore the exhibition using a series of sensory and drama exercises, including object handling, scent exploration, creating a soundscape and freeze frames</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce students to the life and work of Joaquín Sorolla</li> <li>• To discover art through the senses</li> <li>• To connect visual and sensory learning</li> <li>• To enable students to explore, clarify and express ideas, feelings and experiences</li> <li>• To develop students' awareness of, sensitivity to and enjoyment of visual, aural, tactile and spatial environments</li> </ul>
<b>Themes explored</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century Spain</li> <li>• Work</li> <li>• Leisure</li> <li>• The sea</li> <li>• The role of the artist</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Sound</li> <li>• Scent</li> <li>• Touch</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum links</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Arts – Paint and Colour – Looking &amp; Responding</li> <li>• Drama - Exploring and making drama / Co-operating and communicating in making drama</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop knowledge and understanding of the work of Joaquín Sorolla</li> <li>• Develop knowledge and understanding of a different time and place</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make links and relationships between art and the sensory world</li> <li>• Develop communication skills</li> <li>• Develop visual literacy skills</li> <li>• Develop drama skills</li> <li>• Explore and experiment</li> <li>• Be surprised and inspired</li> <li>• Have fun</li> </ul>
<p><b>Before your visit</b> – background information</p>	<p>One of the most celebrated artists in his native Spain, Joaquín Sorolla (1863–1923) was referred to as the ‘master of light’. See over fifty works spanning a prolific career in the first exhibition of his paintings in Ireland.</p> <p>Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida was born and raised in Valencia on the east coast of Spain. He spent time in Italy and France, before moving to Madrid in 1890. He was very famous in Spain and America, but not in Ireland.</p> <p>Sorolla lived through one of the most politically and artistically significant times in history, and his work influenced some of the greatest artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps best known for his vivid, breezy beach scenes, Sorolla also tackled more complex social themes, society portraiture and his own monumental vision of Spain.</p> <p>Find out more at the Museo Sorolla in Spain:  <a href="http://www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/msorolla/inicio.html">http://www.culturaydeporte.gob.es/msorolla/inicio.html</a></p>
<p><b>Before your visit</b> – suggested activities</p>	<p>Your visit will include a sensory introduction to Sorolla’s work, using sight, sound, touch and smell. Ahead of your visit, we recommend that you guide your students through a sensory awareness warm-up, so they feel comfortable with this approach. You may find the following script helpful:</p> <p>First of all, we are going to close our eyes. Put anything you’re holding down, and, if you can, stand or sit with a straight back, feet hip width apart, and arms by your sides or on your lap. Take a deep breath in through your nose, hold it for a few seconds, and then slowly breathe out through your mouth. Keep breathing in and out slowly, focusing on your breath – how it feels in your nostrils, your lungs expanding and contracting. Then bring your attention to your body – check in with your fingers, hands, arms, shoulders, feet, legs, etc. How do they feel? Are you achey, tired, how does the floor feel beneath your feet? Now bring your attention to what you can hear. Pick up all the sounds in the room. What can you smell? Taste? Feel?</p>
<p><b>After your visit</b> –</p>	<p><b>Sensory environments</b></p>

suggested activities

Gather together a box of natural materials that your class could use to create a sensory environment. Find objects with a variety of textures, shapes, scents, and that can make different sounds. For example, leaves that can crunch underfoot. Have the group explore the objects, and then use them to make a still life that they can draw or paint.

### **Paint outside like Sorolla**

Sorolla painted most of his works *en plein air* (outdoors). Painting en plein air is a fantastic way to observe how light changes in the natural world, and all the different colours that are produced. Whilst Sorolla used massive canvases and had a chair, it can be relatively easy to take a group outside to paint.

#### *Where*

Go to a local park or garden/green space. Or if you live by the coast, then go to the sea! It is good to find somewhere close by, that you can return to at different times of day so you can paint changes of light and colour. You could also go on different dates – autumn is a great time of year to observe how the natural environment changes with the seasons. Sit and paint the same thing at different times of day, or on different dates.

#### *Materials*

You don't need lots of specialist equipment. The simplest way would be to use clipboards to lean on, and sit on the ground. If you're in a park you could sit on benches. Plein air painters would have a portable stool and easel. You can get canvas boards that you could put on a drawing board. Use whatever paint you have in your classroom. You can use a palette or even lids from plastic boxes to mix paint on.

#### *What to do*

Take some time to sit and observe. For example, if you're painting the sea, look at all the different colours. There may be greens, blues, purples or even pinks! Use the paint you have to mix the different colours and paint them onto a practice sheet. See how they look in the light and interact with each other. Practice different shades and mixing different colours. When you are happy, you are ready to paint your final picture! Repeat this exercise at different times of day, or on different days. Compare your paintings and see how the changing light has made a difference to the colours.